GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
REVISION IN THE GUIDELINES FOR PMGSY
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to revise the guidelines under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have submitted any proposals under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a) & (b) Government have revised the Guidelines of the Pradhan MantriGram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in January, 2003.The salient features of the Revised Guidelines relate to: -

- Preparation of Rural Roads Plan and Core Network - All roads underPMGSY are to be prioritised out of the Core Network keeping in view the priorities as per the Guidelines in respect of population size and giving preference to New Connectivity.

- Roads specifications - Roads are to be built as per the specifications given in Rural Roads Manual published by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC: SP20: 2002).

- District level Programmes - The State`s Allocation will be distributed among theDistricts giving 80% on the basis of road length required for providing connectivity to Unconnected Habitations and 20% on the basis of road lengthrequiring Upgradation under the PMGSY.

- Scrutiny, Approval and Clearance - The proposals prepared by the DistrictPanchayats are to be approved by the State level Standing Committee. Proposals are to be sent for clearance based on the scrutiny completed by State Technical Agencies (STAs).

- Project clearance and Release of funds - Projects will be cleared by theEmpowered Committee of the Ministry of Rural Development and 25% of the estimated cost will be released at the time of clearance. Subsequent releases for all road works will be subject to utilisation of 60% of earlier released funds as well as completion of 80% of the approved road works upto (but not including) the year previous to the current year and other standard conditions.

- Fund management in State - Each State will identify / create a State levelAutonomous Agency to maintain and operate Bank account to receive project funds. This account will be operated by the District Programme Implementation Units (DPIUs).

- Execution - No new Agency/ Consultants will be created for execution only.

- Tendering - The works will be tendered as per Standard Bidding Document beingcirculated to the State Governments by NRRDA. Projects will be completed within 9 - 10 months except in the case of Hill States where upto 18 months is allowed.

- Monitoring and Quality Control - Primary responsibility for monitoring will bewith the District Programme Implementation Unit (DPIU). Each State will appoint a State Quality Coordinator and activate the Second-tier Quality control Agency at the State level, independent of the Field Engineers. NRRDA will alsoarrange for sample checks through independent National Quality Monitors(NQMs). In case of completed roads being below `good` quality, the contractor must be black-listed. In addition, District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee set up by the Ministry of Rural Development will also monitor the progress under the Scheme.

- Computerisation - An Internet based software has been developed by C-DAC,Pune and installed alongwith hardware in all States and Districts. Regular updating of the software (called OMMS) is an essential requirement for continuedfunding of projects under PMGSY and failure to do so will affect releases.

- Maintenance - Roads under PMGSY are required to be maintained by the StateGovernments. State Governments have to

communicate a satisfactory mechanism for the maintenance of rural roads under PMGSY in order to be able to receiveProgramme assistance.

(c) to (e) The Ministry have so far received project proposals for the year 2003-04 from the State Governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Mizoram andHaryana. As per the Guidelines, the proposals are cleared on the basis of examination bythe Empowered Committee.